

FREE
SPRINGSTEEN POSTER

Backstreets

Bruce Springsteen: A spirit in the night

By Charles R. Cross

It wasn't until the second set that Bruce Springsteen really started getting loose. He had already played two hours of some of the most intense and powerful rock 'n' roll I have ever seen, frequently jumping into the audience, leaping from the speakers, dancing with the Big Man, Clarence Clemons, and sweating like a lunatic.

The show so far had been incredible but it was during the second set of his December 20, 1978 concert in the Seattle Center Arena that Springsteen went totally nuts. He played for almost three hours more, doing five encores, the final encore performed with the house lights on, after roadies had ripped down half of the p.a. and after 75 percent of the crowd had left. Only a few burnouts were standing around trying to recover from the show. Nobody was clapping. Suddenly a smiling grin appeared from the corner of the stage. Springsteen came running on pledging to play all night. It was a promise, and Bruce Springsteen doesn't break promises.

But Springsteen makes that promise come true every night he performs and he's created a fanatical following by doing so. Springsteen's Arena show was one of his best though there were other shows on the same tour just as incredible. And the 1980 tour, backed with new rock 'n' roll material, promises to be even better.

What makes Springsteen such a dynamic performer, aside from his awesome talent, is his understanding of the roots of rock 'n' roll. Springsteen, perhaps more than any other modern rock performer, realizes that rock 'n' roll is dance music, it always has been and it always will be.

Springsteen's songs are not just dominated by rhythm; they are packed with a strange form of energy that just forces you up on your feet. When Springsteen screams "Rosie come out tonight," he captures the essence



Bruce Springsteen on stage at the Seattle Arena, Dec. 20, 1978.

Photograph by Rex Rystedt

of rock 'n' roll in one phrase, his face covered with a mile-wide grin.

The new album, *The River*, finds Springsteen experimenting with rock 'n' roll dance tunes more than he has on previous records. The double album format allows him to include more partying rock that might not have made it onto a single disc.

Though nothing can match Springsteen story songs for emotional power, in concert it is the rockers that ignite the crowd and set Bruce on fire. With its raucous sound, *The River* capitalizes on Springsteen's frathouse rock and the result is a great party album.

But there is no recording out yet, on any standard issue album

or on any bootleg, that does justice to the power and emotion that Bruce Springsteen gives every concert. There is simply nothing else like it in rock 'n' roll.

Grateful Dead fans came up with their famous bumper sticker but anyone who's seen Springsteen live knows the truth: There's *nothing* like a *Bruce Springsteen* concert.

Born to collect Springsteen paraphernalia

By Charles R. Cross

Ken Deranleau is a man with an obsession. That obsession is Bruce Springsteen; the man, his music, and the paraphernalia.

"In certain respects," Deranleau says, "I live for the next Bruce concert. It almost makes my year. It's better than sex."

Deranleau is a Springsteen collector and his obsession with Springsteen runs much deeper than just seeing concerts. He collects any and everything associated with Springsteen; posters, records, buttons, video tapes and clothing.

In terms of recordings, Deranleau has close to 30 bootleg albums and almost that many bootleg singles. He also collects foreign and promotional copies of Springsteen's standard issues. That means he collects the standard issue, the promotional copy, the German copy, the Dutch copy, the Italian copy, and any other foreign copy he can find. All these records are the same except for different numbers on the cover.

Deranleau has bootleg recordings that he's never even listened to. Their value is decreased once they are opened, though Deranleau is unlike many record collectors in that his collection is not for sale at any cost.

"It's so easy to sell an item here and an item there," he said. "When you're living in poverty it's easy to take \$20 for something. But I'd just spend it on food or gas or pay the oil bill. Then pretty soon, I'd be sorry."

Though Deranleau counts himself among eight or ten serious Springsteen collectors in the nation, he admits he can't compete with the big boys. "I



Ken Deranleau surrounded by his records.

Photograph by Kathleen Gammon

could easily sink \$10,000 on Bruce stuff," he said, "but where am I going to get that kind of money? But some of these collectors have money to burn and to them spending \$300 on a single item is nothing."

Deranleau's most prized item (apart from his *Born to Run* jacket) is a silkscreen of Springsteen on canvas. His is the only copy made before the screen was destroyed.

Though he has plenty of Springsteen albums to choose from, Deranleau says he usually sticks with the standard releases.

But sound quality aside, Deranleau feels there is no comparison between Springsteen on record and Springsteen in concert.

"Once you've seen Springsteen live," he said, "there's no substitute. The visual element is so important with him. It's not a religious experience but it gives me a strange feeling that in some ways feels like a religious conversion."

"And in concert," he adds, "that sucker smiles all show long and no record has been made that can capture that."

The 6 hottest Springsteen collectables

This is a list of some of the rarer and/or most expensive Springsteen collectabilia.

1. Bruce's car — About two years ago, as per an ad in *Goldmine*, you could have bought the 1955 Chevy Bruce used to own (or was it 1957?). Apparently Springsteen had trouble with people ripping parts off the car and decided that it wasn't worth the trouble. Price: About \$8,500.

2. If that sound a little expensive, try a *Born to Run* or *Darkness on the Edge of Town* **satlin baseball jacket**. A genuine *Born to Run* jacket (beware of copies) runs from \$200 to \$300.

3. Another hard item to find is a **Japanese promotional 10 song sampler** containing songs from the first three American releases. Right now, with wealthy collectors bidding outrageously high for the few copies around, these gems are going for \$200 to \$300. As more make their way into the country the price should drop to \$150. CBS-Sony label.

4. Bruce's first American single, "Blinded by the Light," B/W "The Angel" (Columbia 4-45805), had a picture sleeve. Finding one now is not easy. Buying one from a collector may cost you as much as \$50, but you're being chated if you pay more than \$15.

5. No collection should be without a ***Darkness on the Edge of Town* picture disk**. These are readily available in record collector's magazines like *Goldmine* or *Trouser Press* though they cost from \$75 to \$125. Of course, you'd never want to play one.

6. A new item just out is the **12" single of "Detroit Medley"** from the No Nukes concert. Pirated copies abound and prices run from \$20 to as much as \$100.

— Ken Deranleau

Springsteen's bootleg albums

1. You Can Trust Your Car to the Man Who Wears the Star (2) — From 1976.
2. Fire on the Fingertips
3. "E" Ticket — alternate studio tracks some without vocals.
4. Firewax — Also known as Fire or Fire Vinyl. Contains a great version of "The Fever."
5. Piece de Resistance (3) — A personal favorite.
6. Live at the Hammersmith Odeon
7. Live at the Roxy (2)
8. Roxy L.A. in Stereo (2)
9. Return to Rock 'N' Roll
10. Prove it Every Night — Two interviews plus "Good Rockin'

- Tonight."
11. Bruce Springsteen and the E Streeters, Live in the Promised Land (3)
12. Hot Coals from the Firey Furnace
13. King of the Alley — Many unusual tracks.
14. Thunder Rouge
15. Bruce Springsteen '78 (2) — Live in Cincinnati.
16. Springsteen Raises Cain (2)
17. Flat Top and Pin Drop
18. Ragamuffin Gunner (2) — Lots of unusual tracks.
19. The Jersey Devil
20. Harley in Heat
21. Philadelphia Special (3) —

- Red, white and blue vinyl. Includes Gary Busey on "Rave On" and "Quarter to Three."
22. Agora, Part 1 (2)
23. Agora, Part 2 (2)
24. October Stories
25. More Greetings from Asbury Park, N.J.
26. The Boss of E Street — "High School Confidential" and "Pretty Flamingo."
27. Box O' Rocks (5)
28. Bruce Springsteen Live (2) — From the Bottom Line.
29. Great White Boss (3) — White vinyl.
30. Paid the Cost to be The Boss

— Ken Deranleau

You Review the Springsteen Concert

Tonight after the show, call 223-3916 with your reactions; good, bad, or indifferent. Tomorrow morning, we'll have a montage of comments, once per hour between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Listen tomorrow and if you heard your voice on 102½FM, call us and we'll set aside a Springsteen tour sweatshirt for you.

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